



ATTACHMENT A

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Remarks

By this Amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to be allowable.

Other dependent claims have also been amended for proper dependency consistent with the examiner's suggested corrections or to correct similar problems. In addition, a new claim 25 containing the allowable subject matter of dependent claim but rewritten in independent form has been added. It is submitted that the present application is in immediate condition for allowance for the following reasons.

In the *Response to Amendment* section of the outstanding DETAILED ACTION, the examiner observed that the dependencies of claims 9 and 12 were evidently listed incorrectly by typographical error in the previously provided claims listing. This observation was made because claims 9 and 12 should evidently depend from claims 8 and 11 respectively, which was the (correct) dependencies as listed in the preceding version of the claims listing, and no changes therefrom were indicated in the last claims listings provided. This observation by the examiner was correct, so that the present claims listings now correctly show - as an amendment to the previous claims listing - the noted dependencies. In addition, a similar typographical error occurred in claims 3 and 8 which are now also corrected to depend from claims 2 and 7 respectively.

In the *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112* section, claim 3 was rejected for being indefinite due to an antecedent basis problem. By this Amendment, as noted in the paragraph above, the dependency of claim 3 has been changed so that proper antecedent basis is now provided.

In the *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102* section and the following *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103* section, independent apparatus claim 1 and claims 2-12 and 20 dependent therefrom were all variously rejected: (a) as being anticipated by the Chow patent; (b) as being anticipated by the Morinaga JP patent; and/or (c) as being obvious over the Morinaga JP patent with or without one or more additional references as noted. Thereafter, in the *Allowable Subject Matter* section, it was indicated that independent method claims 13 and 21 together with the claims dependent therefrom were all **allowable**.

By this Amendment, the allowable subject matter of the two method claims has now been added to independent apparatus claim 1. It is therefore submitted that amended independent claim 1 is now **allowable** for the same reasons that method claims 13 and 21 were allowable (that is, that this subject matter is not shown in either the Chow patent or the Morinaga JP patent, taken singly or in combination with each other or any of the other cited references). Further, as independent claim 1 is now allowable, all of claims 2-12 and 20 dependent therefrom are also now **allowable**.

It was also indicated in the *Allowable Subject Matter* section that dependent claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. While dependent claim 9 has now been made allowable by being dependent from allowable amended independent claim 1, the indicated allowable subject of claim 9 (including claim 8) has also been rewritten as new independent claim 25. Obviously, claim 25 is allowable for the same reasons that dependent claim 9 was indicated as being allowable in the Action.

In view of the above, rejected claims 1-12 and 20 have now all been made allowable, and new independent claim 25 is inherently allowable, so that all claims

pending in this application are now allowable. Therefore, the present application is now in immediate condition for allowance.